

Camp at the Y
By Erica Wilson
Supervisor of Y Camp and Teen programs

At the Y we have camp all year round!

Oh the joys of summer camp! Warm weather, the sun, swimming, bug collecting and dozens of other warm weather activities. These are all great memories of summer but the part that most campers come to remember and miss most during the winter months are the friends they make and the good times they have being with their friends.

All over the United States, day camps and resident camps alike have noticed that even their staff gets “homesick” for that place where they spent their summer. That is why that week long winter break from school is a perfect opportunity for camps to have a winter reunion!

Sure the activities change from swimming to sledding, the crafts are not focused on sun catchers but snow globes and instead of coming home without a towel you may find your child missing that extra pair of socks but the days are still action packed and filled with smiles and laughter.

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA is excited to reunite with students for a fun filled, action packed **winter camp!** The camp is open to children ages 5 to 15 and will be held on December 23, December 26 to 30 and January 2 from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm. There will also be a half-day program December 22 from noon to 6:00 pm.

They offer a fun, safe place for kids to hang out, play games, challenge each other on the Wii, and hike through our 40 acres of winter wonderland! Other activities will include decorating cookies, making winter crafts, playing games and hopefully having lots of fun in the snow! December 30th will be our big end of the year celebration with a pizza party, bounce house and other special activities!

Registration is due December 19th along with a \$5.00 deposit for each day attending. A copy of the child's current immunizations and a doctors signed health appraisal are due at drop off along with the payment for the day. Registration forms and health appraisal forms can be downloaded from our website www.gtbayymca.org.

An afternoon snack will be provided each day. Children need to bring a packed lunch and a morning snack if they wish. On Friday, December 30th there will be a pizza party (\$3.00/child).

The fee for YMCA members is \$16 per day and for non-members it is \$25 per day. The half day program is \$10 for YMCA members and \$20 for non-

members. Contact Erica Wilson at 933-9622 or visit our website for more information.

The YMCA is for Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility. YMCA's all over the world understand that providing parents with a safe place for their children to have fun and grow is very important. They strive to not only provide a fun time but to instill the four core values of the YMCA that are caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Erica is the supervisor of camps and teen program for Grand Traverse Bay YMCA. She brings to this new position nearly 10 years experience in Y camping and youth development. She can be contacted at 933-9622 or camp@gtbayymca.org .